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ing interests of the Association. For this SERIES, however, number 4 had been promised and was already in preparation for the press.

The Treasurer's report was next in order and the following committee was named to audit it: Professors F. M. Page (University of the South) and A. Lodeman (Ypsilanti, Mich.).

#### TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

Cash on hand January 1, 1886.....	\$116.45
Receipts for 1886.....	616.33
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Total.....	\$732.78
Expenditures.....	560.96
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Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1887.....	\$171.82

Committees were then appointed: 1st, to suggest names of officers for the Association during the ensuing year—Professor E. S. Joynes (South Carolina College) Chairman; 2d, to draw up greetings for the VERBAND DER DEUTSCHEN NEUPHILOLOGISCHEN LEHRERSCHAFT at its second conference to be held in Frankfort on May 31st and June 1st, 1887—Professor W. T. Hewett, (Cornell University) Chairman. Committees were requested to report at the opening of the last meeting of the Association, December 30th.

A telegram expressive of the sympathy and cordial interest of the MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA was then sent to the *Modern Language Association of Canada*, organizing and holding its first session at this time in University College, Toronto. After adopting the thirty minute rule for the reading of papers, ten minutes for the opening remarks, and five minutes for subsequent discussion, in each case, the Convention proceeded to the regular communications to be presented and Dr. James W. Bright, (Johns Hopkins University) opened the series by giving

1. "A general survey of the year's publications in the Department of Modern Languages."

In his introduction, Dr. Bright sketched the history and significance of the practice observed by the London Philological

Society in the "Annual Addresses" of its retiring Presidents. An argument based upon the experience of this old and honored Society, was then offered in favor of a provision in the proceedings of the Association for an annual summary of all that is done in modern philology. A partial summary of this character, for which data had been contributed by others, in accordance with the method employed by the Presidents of the London Society in constructing their "Annual Addresses," was then given in illustration and enforcement of the argument set forth in the introduction. Acknowledgment was made for material furnished for the report on Romanic studies by Prof. A. M. Elliott and Mr. F. M. Warren; on Germanic Studies by Drs. Julius Goebel and H. Wood; on Scandinavian Studies by Mr. Albert E. Egge, and on certain Indo-germanic problems by Dr. Herbert Weir Smyth.

President HENRY E. SHEPHERD (Charleston College), followed with a paper on

2. "A Study of English Prose Style from Elizabeth to Victoria."\*

Discussion on this paper was opened by Professor Th. W. Hunt (Princeton), who said: I have been deeply interested in this paper on English Prose, and especially so since it comes from President Shepherd. I do not know how professors of the French and German languages may feel on the subject, but to me there is no province of language-study more interesting or important than that of English prose. I consider the criticism of President Shepherd in regard to Mr. Saintsbury quite sound. I am surprised that Mr. Saintsbury should neglect the process of evolution in our prose. It is necessary to go back as far as Bede and the English Latin-writers, to fix our starting point for English prose. In the middle of the twelfth century we might fix a second date of development. Here the translation of the Bible into English had a great influence on the language. Probably 90% of English words look back to these versions: but more particularly to Wickliffe's translation. I have been giving particular attention to prose, and perhaps may soon afflict the public with a volume. I am happy to see I have held the same opinions, in the main, as Dr. Shepherd. But I think Addison's

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\*Cf. TRANSACTIONS pp. 22-30, where the essay is given in full.